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NEWS RELEASE

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON
*Business Competitiveness***

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Macomb County Business Women and Men Testify at Legislative Hearing

Chairman Sanborn Brings Joint Committee on Competitiveness to MCC

(LANSING) – A public hearing of the Joint Committee on Business Competitiveness (JCBC) was held at the Center Campus of Macomb Community College April 28 in order to give southeast Michigan businesses the opportunity to speak directly to members of the bi-cameral, bi-partisan committee.

The ten-member JCBC, co-chaired by Senator Alan Sanborn, R-Richmond, and Rep. Clark Bisbee, R-Jackson, was established earlier this year and charged with the responsibility to develop specific legislative recommendations for improving the ability of Michigan businesses to compete with those of other states and other countries.

The report the committee will submit to Senate and House leadership in September will be predominantly comprised of the testimony and recommendations submitted by members of Michigan's business community.

Monday's meeting, the fifth of eight to be conducted across the state, drew more than 70 representatives from area businesses and the economic development community. More than 20 companies, some as large as General Motors and as small as Warren's Tool-Dex, submitted testimony and recommendations to the committee.

Earlier in the day, committee members and staff were invited by Chairman Sanborn to tour two Macomb County businesses to speak to workers and management about their operations.

The Romeo Ford Engine Plant tour and meeting began at 9:30 a.m. and U.S. Farathane's Sterling Heights facility was visited at 11:30.

(MORE)

Senator Sanborn, who has made a point of touring businesses prior to other hearings, feels it is vitally important for committee members to meet with people involved in a broad range of businesses.

“Whether you’re Bob Herrick, a 30 year employee at Ford’s Romeo Plant, or Jim Zawacki, owner of Grand Rapids GR Spring & Stamp, you have experience, ideas and a vested interest in the health of Michigan’s business environment,” Sanborn said. “I want to hear from all of them.”

The next JCBC meeting will be conducted May 5 in Battle Creek, followed by May 19 in the Bay City/Saginaw area and June 9 in Monroe.